

Amendments to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Withdrawn)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 30 wherein stretching the loop material component is done manually.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 30 wherein the step of stretching the loop component comprises stretching said loop component loop material is stretched by about 150 to 300 percent.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 30 wherein the step of stretching the loop component comprises stretching said loop component loop material is stretched by about 300 to 450 percent.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein contracting the loop material comprises activating the loop material.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein activating the loop material comprises heating the loop material.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20 wherein the loop material comprises a stretched elastic member having its retraction temporarily inhibited during engagement of the hook and loop materials.

24. (Canceled)

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25. (Currently amended) A method for securing engagement between fastening components of an pre-fastened article used for personal wear upon initial assembly thereof, the fastening components comprising a hook component and a loop component, the loop component comprising a loop material secured to a substrate, the hook component being capable of fastening engagement with the loop material of the loop component each other, the method comprising the steps of:

arranging the fastening components in at least partially opposed relationship with each other;

engaging the fastening components with each other to define an engagement seam whereby the hook component fastenably engages the loop material of the loop component; and

urging sliding movement of one fastening component relative to the other fastening component to promote increased engagement between the fastening components at the engagement seam.

26. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 25 wherein the step of urging sliding movement of said one fastening component relative to said other fastening component comprises at least one of retracting and contracting said one fastening component relative to said other fastening component following engagement of the fastening components.

27. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 26 wherein said one fastening component is the loop component, the substrate of the loop component being elastic whereby the loop component is elastically stretchable and retractable, said method further comprising stretching said one fastening loop component prior to engaging the fastening components with each other, said urging contracting step comprising releasing said

10 ~~one fastening loop~~ component following engagement of the
fastening components such that said ~~one fastening loop~~
~~component retracts relative to said other fastening hook~~
component.

28. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 26 wherein
said one fastening component is constructed of a contractible
material capable of contraction from a relaxed state to a
contracted state, said one fastening component being in its
5 relaxed state upon engagement of the fastening components with
each other, said contracting step comprising contracting said
one fastening component toward its contracted state following
engagement of the fastening components.

29. (Withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 28 wherein
said one fastening component is contractible upon the
application of heat thereto.

30. (New) A method of securing an absorbent article in a
fastened configuration for personal wear, said method
comprising:

5 forming an absorbent article to have a body having first
and second end regions, the body comprising an inner layer for
contact with a wearer's skin wherein at least a portion of said
inner layer is liquid permeable, an outer layer in opposed
relation with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed
between the inner layer and the outer layer;

10 positioning a mechanical fastening system on the body, the
mechanical fastening system comprising a loop component and a
hook component, the loop component comprising a loop material
secured to an elastic substrate such that the loop component is
capable of elastic stretch and retraction, the hook component

15 being fastenably engageable with the loop material of the loop component;

stretching the loop component;

engaging the hook component and the loop component whereby the hook component fastenably engages the loop material of the 20 loop component; and

allowing the loop component to retract.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein the loop component has a stretchability of up to at least about 150 percent, the step of stretching the loop component comprising stretching said loop component by up to about the 5 stretchability of said loop component.